

RECORD

BEVERLY HILLS, MORGAN PARK, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & MT. GREENWOOD

Innovative "Keepsake Manor" student art show exhibited in unusual places

Ridge Historical Society hosted an exhibit of student works for a class from the School of the Art Institute on Saturday October 21 and Sunday October 22. The instructor for the class is local artist, Michael Hardesty. The show, "Keepsake Manor" featured innovative works in all media, focusing on nostalgia and sentimentality, and the emotional connection to the historical object. Students set up exhibits in the most

unlikely little corners of RHS: a number of closets, the dog run, and on the front stairs and the veranda.

One student made a huge inflatable yellow ribbon which took up a large portion of the front yard, evoking thoughts of the yellow ribbons Americans tie around trees to honor servicemen. One student used her mother's clothing and household items, including 1950s games, and trained with her

mother to learn the appropriate mannerisms to evoke nostalgia for hostesses of the 1950s.

Mr. Hardesty says he just naturally thought of asking the society to allow the exhibit to take place in the Graver-Driscoll House, and he hopes next fall's class can do the same type of exhibit. The society, in conjunction with

the School of the Art Institute, invited the public to see work by 17 talented young artists, integrated with historical artifacts and the society's own exhibit, "Historically Modern" which ran until November 12. The show was also promoted through Beverly Art Center's brochure for the artist's studio tour.

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RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Open to the public
Tuesday 2 - 5 p.m.
Thursday 2 - 5 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.
or by appointment



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Principal for a Day yields history treasure trove

Any local historian's dream is to discover a stash of original (Primary Source) material that fills in long unanswered questions and unsolved mysteries. Key information about the Ridge has come from collections gathered at Walker Branch Library and attics and bookcases of elderly descendants of earliest families -- such names as Lane, Price, White, and especially the Wilcox-Barnard-Howe connections.

Morgan history piecemeal

Until recently, however, facts about the Thomas Morgan family had come only piecemeal, from early Chicago histories and brief recol-

lections passed on from our earliest residents.

Briefly: Thomas Morgan arrived here from England in 1844, bringing his wife and family of nine children, to live a country life at what is now about 92nd and Pleasant.

His land purchases from Blackstone included most of what is now Beverly Hills and Morgan Park. Thomas Morgan died in 1851 and his wife Anna in 1868.

Morgan Park took its name from a son Harry, who sold all the land, which the Blue Island Land and Building Company would develop as a new town, including his house at 110th Pl, the only house in that area.

A dream come true of finding the "mother lode!"

For the Chicago Public Schools annual Principal For A Day observance on November 2, one of seven persons chosen as 'principals' for Morgan Park High School was Anne Morgan Moore Colgin of Atlanta, Georgia, the great-great granddaughter of Thomas Morgan!

Searches had been made by CPS to connect schools to prominent alumnae or persons related to the school's name, who also might serve as role models. Ms. Colgin contacted Ridge Historical Society, where she arranged to share her recently uncovered family papers.

It was the MPHSS invitation that gave Ms. Colgin the important reason to put these attic gems into slipcovers, and organize them into ten fact filled binders of Primary Source material.

Her ten binders include correspondence from England; description of the family's voyage to America; household inventory lists; animals and farm equipment purchased from Blackstone; 114 items of Chicago deeds, tax records, etc.; fact filled details printed in obituaries of many Morgan family members; family genealogy; England letters, 1809

PLEASE SEE MORGAN, PAGE 3

Barnard-Howe family papers tell quite a story

BY MAUREN GILLIGAN

The appeal for volunteers by Executive Director Jane Nicoll is timely both for our programming, general operations, and use of the vast collections housed at RHS. There is plenty to do at RHS, but help is needed.

Since August, I've been working with a very old collection at the RHS—the Barnard-Howe Family Papers. Acquired by RHS in 1976, the 25 boxes of material generously donated by Alice Howe Palmer has awaited accessioning at the Graver-Driscoll House. Accessioning is the process of sorting, organizing, stabilizing

in archival storage, and creating an inventory so some interested researcher, family historian, or local organizations can use the material. Some of the oldest papers related to the first generation of Barnards, Erastus and his brother Daniel, were immediately pulled from the donated boxes, but the bulk of the large collection has awaited further work. Until now.

The work on the Barnard-Howe papers is painstaking in part because of the volume of the donated materials. Most of the materials are paper and require careful examination to determine their origin,

context, and logical organization. This is some of what I've found.

Early Ridge settlers

Besides being one of the earliest families to settle on the Ridge at Tracy Avenue (now 103rd), the Barnards were land moguls. They owned considerable land throughout the city, out west in Idaho, Montana, and Texas, and even resort development properties in Florida.

The Barnards and Howes were enthusiastic supporters of community, including the Bethany Union Church, its missionary activities and other outreach programs.

The family provided housing for the church pastor and operated The Reminder, personally maintaining the newsletter advertising accounts and hiring local residents, often women, to collect subscriptions and payment for advertisements. The Barnard and Howe women also managed the church building and its use by various associations, especially women's organizations.

Some of these records illustrate the world of men, but much of it also reveals a remarkable role for women in this wealthy, landed, commercial family.

Volunteers are vital to our success at RHS!

There are long term volunteers like Doris Moulton, Sue Delves, and Bill and Marie Sandstrom, who between them, have done almost everything for the society, including decorating and painting, in depth research and publishing newsletters, serving as treasurer and financial officers, serving as hostess and supervising the cleaning lady.



Katherine Costin did a college internship at RHS, working on photograph sorting and sleeving

Edris Hoover, Curator; Pat McGrail, Costume Curator; Linda Lamberty, Genealogist and Archives Committee Chairman; and Jennifer Kenny, Historian for RHS and also Architectural Historian, are all volunteers who give many hours in positions that are paid jobs at larger societies.

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Welcome to new volunteers

Newer volunteers have come on board this year. Signe Morgan comes to

do word processing. Laura Creagan has begun coming in to do research work, or work on the collections, as needed. Don Thompson, who travels back to his old stomping ground from Homewood, is helping to compile a number of timelines into one timeline, so it can be added to our Website.

A variety of tasks

Mary Ellen Cassidy, Monica Somerville, Henry and Harriet Melin, Lois Grayston, Sue Delves, Joan Wynn Murphy, Mati Maldre, Pat McGrail, Edris Hoover, Lois Schell, Martha Herriott Swift, Jim Smenos, and Cliff Taylor have all served as docents, opening RHS to visitors during our open hours. Joyce Black has organized yard work and gardening crews. Maureen

MORGAN, FROM PAGE 2

to 1833; family photos; and a ledger kept by a son, British Navy Capt. Thomas Charles Morgan from 1851 to 1900.

Anne Colgin is not ready to part with this collection she has so recently begun to study and organize; however

she is quite sincere about her intentions to share it by scanning and allowing further copying in the future, and to stay in close contact with Ridge Historical Society, where she was extended a warm welcome.

Gilligan, RHS board member, has taken on processing the Howe Collection, using her history education to discern the unplumbed treasures.

Work on our building

Jerry Rodriguez and Herman and Lois Schell have tackled some of the more physical jobs like repairing ceilings and bathroom fixtures, gardening. They have brought in tradesman to make numerous estimates on the physical repairs needed to restore the building, and plan more work for the winter and next spring in repairing the building. The fundraising committee, headed by Mel Black has undertaken the brick paver program.

Student internships and volunteers

We have been fortunate to attract students to do internships and volunteer projects this year. Emily

Wall donated 225 hours and, among other things, sewed garment bags.

Katherine Costin did a college internship, working on photograph sorting and sleeving. Katherine Hlousek worked for us in the summer, continuing a photograph sorting, labeling and sleeving project, and helping with research questions. Amanda Murphy did some wonderful projects for us. Tim Moran of Oak Lawn provided valuable aid to the Schells. Carrie McKeown worked a number of hours entering membership address changes into the computer.

After doing a beautiful job with the Kate Starr Kellogg exhibit, Ellen Trischler has volunteered to help RHS with her graphic design talents. Vicki Granacki helped mount the Historically Modern exhibit. Willetta Gary, retired Chicago Public School teacher, has just joined us as a docent and hopefully can use her skills to enhance our programming. Brian Riordan, Robin Horner, Anthony McKenna, Jack Rohan and a couple of others stand ready to help when called.

Our goal is to involve many more folks of all ages in the myriad jobs it will take to keep RHS a vital part of this community for years to come, and to keep the Graver-Driscoll House as an architectural gem on the Ridge.



Student volunteer Emily Wall donated 225 hours and, among other things, sewed garment bags.

Historically Modern: early- to mid-20th Century architecture in Beverly Hills and Morgan Park

Between September 15 and November 12, 2006, Ridge Historical Society once again recog-

on buildings constructed after 1930. Research through state and city architectural surveys, the



Jennifer Kenny and Joel Morbito are joined by Richard Carlson, son of noted architect Elmer C. Carlson, AIA, subject of an October 15th lecture.

City of Chicago's building permit records, and property records at the Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office revealed dates of construction,

capturing the essence of the modern era. Ridge Historical Society is grateful to Granacki Historic Consultants of Chicago, a historic preservation consulting company, for their financial support of this exhibit.

The Ridge Historical Society reconnected with members of the Sailor family. Homer Grant Sailor (1887-1968) was an early-20th century architect that is best known for designing historic eclectic style homes in the neighborhood. Yet, in 1938, Sailor designed the Hayden House, an International style design reportedly influenced by Century of Progress fair.

Displayed for the first time are the plans and elevations for this house at 10644 S. Wood Street, one part of a larger collection of drawings recently presented to the RHS by Mrs. Homer Grant Sailor, Jr. and her son, John Sailor. Ridge Historical Society thanks the Sailor, Jr. family for their donation.

RHS also welcomed back former Beverly Hills resident and architect Richard Carlson, son of Elmer C. Carlson. Elmer C. Carlson, AIA (b. January 20, 1897 - d. July 15, 1956) was a Swedish-born architect who resided in the community and is best known for his streamlined Modern designs. His office, once

located at 2141 W. 95th Street, still communicates the name "Elmer Carlson architect" on its east parapet wall, 60 years after its construction. Over 20 examples of Elmer Carlson's designs were included in the Historically Modern exhibit.

After locating Elmer's son, Richard, and his wife, Mary Kay, in Colorado Springs, CO, the Carlsons and their daughter, Erica, traveled many miles to join us for the Historically Modern program on October 15, 2006 at the Graver-Driscoll House. The program included a lecture on modern architectural styles and a certificate presentation to honor architecturally-significant modern era designs led by Jennifer Kenny and Joel Morbito.

RHS members and friends should stop by to see the Carlson family's donation of copies of historic black and white photos of some of Elmer Carlson's Art Moderne-style designs in the neighborhood, taken shortly after construction.

The Ridge Historical Society also congratulates the ten owners who received honorary certificates from the committee in recognition of their architecturally significant buildings built during the modern era of the 20th century.

nized our community's exceptional historic architecture, this time by featuring modern styles of the early to mid 20th century. Through the "Historically Modern" exhibit and certificate program, RHS took a look at how Chicagoans embraced Modern architectural design trends of the 20th century. While the Chicago area has very few existing modern single-family residential designs, numerous examples of the Art Moderne, International and Late Prairie styles were constructed in architecturally rich Beverly Hills and Morgan Park between 1925 and 1965.

Although the Ridge Historical Society's Architectural Resource Center has compiled building research about homes in the area, we had limited information

original owners, and architects of the Modern era buildings identified by the RHS historic buildings committee. Out of the over 120 modern architectural designs identified, 70 were included in the Historically Modern exhibit and ten modern-era designs were awarded honorary certificates as a part of the RHS Historic Building Certificate Program.

The exhibit featured current and historic photos and architectural plans of buildings in the neighborhood, accompanied by text that defined the architectural styles of the Modern period. The exhibit also gave RHS a chance to showcase a collection of promotional materials, various souvenirs, and ephemeral items from the Century of Progress. All are futuristic in design and

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MEMBERSHIP

A newsletter subscription is a benefit of membership.

ANNUAL DUES

Individual \$25
Family \$35
Contributor \$50
Supporter \$100

2006 Historic Building Certificate Award Winners



10455 S. Bell Ave.
William J. Mathis House 1937
 Architect: Albert F. Heino
Art Moderne



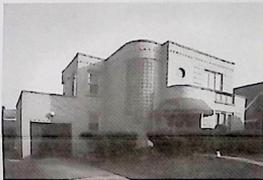
9205 S. Bell Ave.
Speculative house for Elmer C. and Beatrice Carlson (Salvatore and Mae Caruso House) 1938-39
 Architect: Elmer C. Carlson
International style



9258 S. Vanderpoel Ave.
Chester J. and Charlotte Hagerman House 1940
 Architect: R. E. Major & Co.
International style



10139 S. Oakley Ave.
Charles L. Smith House 1941
 Architect: Elmer C. Carlson
Art Moderne



9309 S. Oakley Ave.
Adolph and Mary Skusevich House 1941-42
 Architect: Elmer C. Carlson
Art Moderne



9333 S. Oakley Ave.
Speculative house for S. Richard Klarich (Herbert Michel House) 1949-50
 Architect: Joseph E. Hosek
International style/Late Prairie



9301 S. Winchester Ave.
Helmut and Helen Steinmetz House 1950
 Architect: Elmer C. Carlson
International style



2131 W. Howland Ave.
Benjamin H. and Addie Pollyea House 1956-57
 Fisher & Shaffer
International style



11867 S. Oakley Ave.
William and Alice Townsend House c. 1956
 Architect unknown
International style



9756 S. Bell Ave.
Rudolph Eberhardt House c. 1963
 Architect unknown
International style

Mystery photo: Supple Service baseball team

Do you know the names of any of these young men? We have many photos in our Ridge Historical Society which are unnamed. Maybe you can help identify the people or help us research the history of a photo?

This local baseball team, sponsored by the Supple Gas Station, which was located at 9906 S. Vincennes, is a classic example of the small town community involvement by our local businesses. Supple's filling station and many other small businesses sponsored sports teams, donated time and energy to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts or made donations to our churches and community groups. It is fascinating to look

though the RHS files plus use other resources to investigate the people and businesses of our community. We have newspapers, "people files", social and community clubs files, census access, etc. and other family and business research sources, but not enough volunteers to do the research.

The Supple Service Station

We searched random dates of phone directories looking for the service station and the family, from 1929, 1937, 1939, 1950, 1961, 1968, 1973 and 1979. We also looked at Sanborn Insurance Maps from 1936 and 1951. Because the maps were created



We want to thank RHS member Sue Cummings for supplying this team photo of local boys sponsored by Supple's Service. But for this newsletter article we need your help. Do you know who these young men are?

The second on the bottom left is Bud Cummings and the second on the bottom right is Don Cummings. But we do not know the names of any of

the others.

Looking at the photo we know that the sponsoring business is Supple's Service Station. They sell Texaco gasoline, which "contains lead," obviously a plus since it is advertised on the pump. The ground is covered in gravel, not asphalt or concrete, but the road behind is paved. The train tower in the background tells us that the service station

was located west of the railroad tracks.

These boys may not be playing baseball; they may be softball players because if you look at the young man on the bottom row, left hand side, he is holding a larger ball than a baseball. They play with wooden bats, but for some reason we don't see any mitts or baseball shoes.

The middle young man in the second row

holds a glass bottle, perhaps a soda bottle from an orange drink or a Cola-Cola? A cross hangs around the neck of one person - perhaps a catholic from St. Margaret of Scotland or from St. Barnabas?

And why are two team members not in uniform? Is the man on the far right side Mr. Supple?

Questions we would love to answer.

by insurance companies they plot building "foot-prints" and specify fire prevention details. The 1936 map shows two very small buildings in the front center with 2 filling tanks along Vincennes. In the back, along the alley is a larger building, perhaps a garage.

Sue, our photo donor, remembers that Supple's ran ads for decades in St. Margaret's church bulletin, but RHS does not seem to have copies of the bulletins. In our random phone book search we could not find

any business listings for the Supple Service Station until 1939 and that was just a single line address and phone.

By 1950 the name had been changed to Supple Brothers Service Station. Finally, in 1968 there was a larger advertisement saying Supple Bros. – our 42nd year. So it appears that the business was founded in 1926.

The Supple Family

The 1930 US Census shows John and Bridget residing at 1326 West 98th Street with their children John, Thomas, James, Charles, Francis and Mary. It does not seem surprising that a family with so many boys would sponsor a softball team. Obituaries from the Chicago Tribune, Historic Tribune website, accessed October 25, 2006, tell us John died in 1970 and Bridget in 1964. Obituaries for most of their children were located and son Charlie's even states that he operated Supple Brother's Texaco Service station at 99th & Vincennes for 35 years.

What a wonderful legacy this family left - a small town, successful business, involved in their community and their church. It is just the kind of story that has been repeated many times in our community, but whose history has not yet been documented.

If your family has or had a local business or if you have photos of local people, places and events RHS would love to have digital copies or the original photos.

Can you help?

1. Can you identify any of the young men in this team photo?
2. Are you a Supple family member or do you know anyone from the Supple family whom we can contact?
3. Do you have any church bulletins you would like to donate to RHS or would let us make photocopies of?
4. Do you have baseball photos of local teams from the 1880's through 2006 that you can share with RHS?
5. Do you have photos of businesses, people, places and events that you would like to donate to RHS or let RHS scan for the digital files?

Email us at ridgehistory@hotmail.com or contact Jennifer Kenny or Peg Kapustiak at Ridge Historical Society for details.

We wish to thank ...

A thank you to AFS Limited, operated by Paul Albarran, a Beverly resident. One of the Longwood Drive pillar signs, which had fallen and split apart, was rebuilt by AFS with plastic polymer, at no cost. We had assumed a new sign would have to be carved. The restored sign is much more weather resistant than the original.

Cub Pack #3607, lead by Cub Master Paul Stroh and assistant Cub Master Harole Fiene, came to RHS on October 28 to do yard cleanup. The boys did a great job of clearing away acorns, leaves, debris and weeds. Thank you, Cub Scouts!

Would you like to lower your taxes for 2006?

On August 17, 2006 President Bush signed a law that allows taxpayers who are 70 or older to give away as much as \$100,000 a year from their IRA directly to qualified charities without triggering federal income taxes.

Here's how it works

A taxpayer can get an exclusion from gross income for otherwise taxable distributions from an IRA as long as the money is paid directly to a qualified charity. This money counts toward the taxpayer's required minimum distribution for that year. The new break is available only for distributions in 2006 and 2007 and the maximum charitable distribution is \$100,000 per year.

Simply contact your IRA Fund Administrator for the application rollover forms.

Great news for all Chicago history researchers!

The ProQuest Chicago Tribune Historical Archive is now available to remote users on the Chicago Public Library web site. All that's needed is a valid Chicago Public Library card. This extensive electronic database is, according to the folks at ProQuest, is a unique full-image archive that brings you the full historical run of the Chicago Tribune, one of the nation's oldest continuously published newspapers. It offers complete coverage from 1849-1985. The Historical Chicago Tribune gives researchers quick, accurate Web access to nearly 135 years of a newspaper intimately tied to the development of the historic city of Chicago and the growth of the Midwest and the nation. Is a great source for students entering the history fair. Check it out at <http://www.chipublib.org>. If you have any questions on how to use this database, please contact Jennifer Kenny for a quick tutorial.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meetings
January 10, February 14, March 14, 2007
Nominations for 2007 board positions
are now open. Annual meeting will be
scheduled in March; date to be announced
in the next newsletter.

New exhibit
Remembering Marshall Fields
Opens December, runs through January
27th, 2007. Created by RHS Curator Edna
Hoover, Marshall Field Archivist Tony John,
and Amy Meadows, this four-part exhibit
will feature the themes of Christmas, public-
ity innovator Waldo Warren, a fascinating
account of the Houses of the Executives, and
the Ridge Shop, exhibiting genuine Marshall
Fields merchandise.

Features
Two event features of the exhibit are the
"Kids Treasure Hunt," beginning December
26th through January 14th, and a Member
Program event on January 18th, collecting
oral history stories of community members
called "Memories of Marshall Fields."
All Marshall Field events are free to
members.

• **Thursday Member Night**
January/February
Ridge Historical Society will continue a
monthly program for members and all in-
terested community participants addressing
topics of history, architecture, genealogy, our
extensive collection, and much more.
On January 18th, the community is
invited to the Driscoll House, 7-8 p.m.,
to recount their "Memories of Marshall
Fields."
Community members are encouraged
to come share and record their memories
of the great store and its legacy for Chi-
cago. Marshall Field Archivist Tony John
and publicist Amy Meadows will lead the
evening's events.